

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A solar cell ~~connector~~ interconnecting
element for connecting between adjacent solar cells, said interconnecting
element, comprising:

a metal strip;

first and second connection areas formed in said metal strip, said
connection areas comprising tabs that are configured and disposed so as to be
connectable for connection to respective ones of said adjacent solar cells, forming
a conductive connection between said solar cells; and

a centrally situated compensation section formed in said metal strip
integrally with and intermediate said connection areas, said compensation

section being configured to compensate for mechanical or other tensions due to
movement between said adjacent solar cells; wherein,

the compensation section comprises a single central opening in said
metal strip;

said central opening is intermediate said first and second
connection areas, and is delimited by a surrounding marginal area of said metal
strip; [[and]]

the compensation section and the central opening are one of round,
oval, and polygonal; and

~~whereby~~ said first and second connection areas and said
compensation section comprise a unitary continuous segment of said metal strip.

Claims 2.-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) Solar cell connector according to
Claim 1, wherein the metal strip comprises a material selected from the group
consisting of a precious metal and a conductive material with a precious-metal
coating.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) Solar cell connector according to Claim 12, wherein said precious metal is selected from the group consisting of gold and silver.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) Solar cell connector according to Claim 12, wherein the conductive material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of i) molybdenum and ii) another element of the sixth subgroup of the periodic table of elements.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) Solar cell connector according to Claim 1, wherein the solar cell connector is produced by stamping, etching or eroding.

Claims 18.-30. (Cancelled)

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The solar cell connector according to Claim 1, wherein the marginal area of said metal strip is formed as a single monolithic portion of said metal strip.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The solar cell connector according to Claim 31, wherein said tabs project substantially normal to said marginal area of said metal strip.

Claim 33. (New) An interconnecting element for connecting adjacent solar cells, said interconnecting element comprising:

a compensation section that is configured to be connectable between said adjacent solar cells, and to absorb mechanical tension attributable to relative movement between said adjacent solar cells;

a first connecting tab which extends laterally from a first side of said compensation section, and which is configured and disposed in such a manner as to be connectable to a first one of said adjacent solar cells;

a second connecting tab which extends laterally from a second side of said compensation section, opposite said first side, and which is configured and disposed in such a manner as to be connectable to a second one of said adjacent solar cells; wherein,

said first and second connecting tabs and said compensation section are formed integrally, as a unitary continuous segment of a metal strip;

the compensation section comprises a single central opening in said metal strip;

said central opening is intermediate said first and second
connection areas, and is delimited by a surrounding marginal area of said metal
strip; and

the compensation section and the central opening are one of round,
oval, and polygonal.